



# Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Jeff Zaring, State Board Administrator

**DATE:** October 1, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Spotlight on Learning – New Prairie United School Corporation’s Activities Center

New Prairie United School Corporation is using stimulus money to operate a community based Activities Center. The program is offered to Title I eligible students in grades K-2 at Prairie View Elementary School and all grade levels at Rolling Prairie Elementary School. The residential community in which the program is offered houses 102 children in grades K-5, and 94 percent of those students are on free and reduced price lunch. Sixty-four percent of those students are limited English proficient. The Center is open Monday through Thursday from 3:10 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. On Fridays, the Center is open for parent/child activities in the evening. Programs include homework assistance and “edutainment” activities that include games like scrabble, connect four, and monopoly; recreation with reading and math twists; using art to teach science; and cryptoclub - using math to make and break secret codes.

At Prairie View Elementary, there will be a three-day program from 3:10 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There will also be a before and after school program at Rolling Prairie Elementary.

The corporation is cognizant of the need for a sustainability plan to maintain the program after the two-year stimulus period ends, and the following organizations have agreed to partner with the Activity Center: Minority Health Coalition, LaPorte County Public Library, Boys & Girls Clubs of Michigan City and Global Media Productions. The corporation also plans to reach out to the faith-based community.

The key concepts that make this program eligible for the Spotlight on Learning are: (1) providing extended day instructional services to improve English proficiency and academic achievement; (2) taking the program to students and parents rather than making them come to the program; (3) using stimulus money but building sustainability in as a key component; and (4) developing public and private partnerships.